

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's
EXCITER



President's Corner

Article by Karl Bowman W4CHX, RARS President

RARS EVENTS:

- The RARS General Membership meeting is the 1st Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 PM on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 PM or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Happy New Year to everyone! It is hoped that you had a happy and peaceful holiday season. The RARS general membership meeting in December was well-attended. During the short business meeting, we installed our newly-elected Officers and Board Members. I look forward to working with these individuals, and all RARS Members, during 2011. Thereafter, we listened to Gary KN4AQ recite his "Ham's Night Before Christmas", enjoyed the holiday music provided by the Encore Singers, and probably ate too many snacks!

Did you make resolutions for the new year? Do any of your resolutions include helping RARS and its members with our 2011 activities? RARSFest is less than 4 months away and John AI4RT has indicated that Team Leaders are needed for the Youth Lounge, Contests (homebrew, fox hunt, code contests), and Talk-In. The Team Leaders for the other activities will soon begin looking to our membership for volunteer help, especially during set-up. Field Day 2011 follows soon thereafter, and Bob W4TTX, our new Field Day Chair, will be looking for help from RARS Members, as well. Please contact John AI4RT or Bob W4TTX if you can provide assistance.

Next RARS Meeting: January 4

7:30 PM: "Echolink: What can it do for you?" by Robert German KB4RGC. Download handouts about the [Carolina 440 Linked System](#) and [Echolink](#).

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website (www.rars.org).



The Exciter

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcome articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

The submission deadline for each month's *Exciter* is the third Friday of the preceding month. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

Editor: Courtney Enzor KI4HOS (editor@rars.org)

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: First Alliance Church

4400 Buffaloe Road

Raleigh, NC

Time: People begin arriving at 7 PM. The meeting officially begins at 7:30 PM.

RARS Monthly Dinner

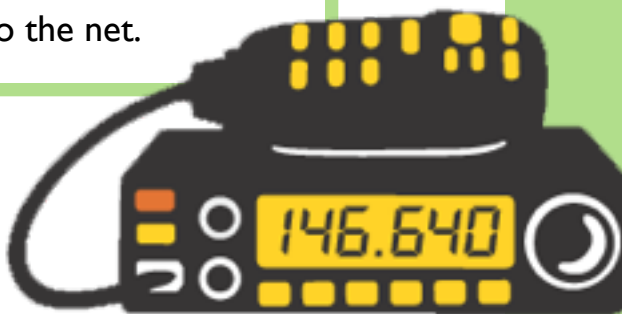
Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family – feel free to bring your little ones! Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

Listen to the nightly RARS net and check www.rars.org for details on the next dinner's location.

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

145.130 (82.5 PL), 146.640, & 444.525 (82.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 PM on the 146.640. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS member to the net.



VE TESTING

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSFest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSFest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, your \$15 exam fee, and any CSEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

January Birthdays

Bob	N4GEB	1/1
Howard	KI4GNB	1/3
Chuck	K4HF	1/4
Jerry	KE4TTS	1/4
John	N4YRD	1/8
Jim	N4CAE	1/9
Beth	KF4QMR	1/9
Katie	KG4IYR	1/10
Jim	KI4NQU	1/11
Marc	W4MPS	1/19
Johnnie	WA9SZL	1/19
Little Ashby	KB5ZIH	1/20
Jim	KJ4BYN	1/22
Dale	WA4JCK	1/26
Ken	KI4OTO	1/28
Cyndi	KD4ACW	1/30
Alan	AB4OZ	1/30
Tom	K2UCU	1/31

November 2010

RARS Net Reports

Checkins: 403
Traffic: 25/30
Minutes: 410
Sessions: 30

Special Interest Nets:
Checkins: 90
Minutes: 320
Sessions: 9

Upcoming Hamfests

1/1	20th Annual Morristown Hamfest White Pine, TN http://www.lakewayarc.org/
1/8	TechFest Lawrenceville, GA http://www.gars.org/joomla/
1/8	FirstFest Winston-Salem, NC http://www.w4nc.com/
1/14- 1/15	Cowtown Hamfest Fort Worth, TX http://www.cowtownhamfest.org/
1/28- 1/29	Capitol City Hamfest Jackson, MS http://www.msham.org/hamfest.php
1/29	Winterfest 2011 Collinsville, IL http://www.lakewayarc.org/
1/30	20th Annual Tusco ARC Hamfest Strasburg, OH http://tuscoarc.org/
2/5	FrostFest (VA State Convention) Richmond, VA http://www.rats.net/

New RARS Members

Bill Agnor K4HVVH

“CQ, CQ CQ, this is WX4NC, looking for contacts for SKYWARN Recognition Day.”

Article by Virginia Enzor NC4VA, Central Carolina SKYWARN Emergency Coordinator

Central Carolina SKYWARN (CCS) enthusiastically teamed up with the Raleigh National Weather Service for the 12th annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD), operating under the call sign WX4NC.

Operating from 7-9pm Friday and 9am-5pm on Saturday at the National Weather Service office on Centennial Campus in Raleigh NC, our team consisted of NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Orrock KI4KKX, CCS Emergency Coordinator Virginia Enzor NC4VA, CCS AEC Bob Woodson WX4MMM, CCS AEC Scott Lewis KJ4BPV, CCS AEC for Wayne County Dave Roy W4DNA, NCO Jim McRight KB4BZ, NCO Kevin Smith K4BGM, Spotter Chris Benson KJ4LKE, Spotter Kristina Benson, Spotter Cassie Mentha KJ4GKP, and ARES NC Section Emergency Coordinator Tom Brown N4TAB.

We divided up the coordination of duties for efficiency. Dave Roy W4DNA supervised the temporary antenna setup and an HF rig, Bob Woodson WX4MMM oversaw the IRLP station, Scott Lewis KJ4BPV was in charge of the NWS HF radio operation, and Virginia Enzor NC4VA managed operations of another HF rig and coordinated overall SRD activities.

For VHF/UHF, we used two permanently installed, dual band Kenwood TMD7 radios with Diamond dual band vertical antennas that are mounted on the roof of the building housing the National Weather Service.

There were 3 HF radios. First was the NWS radio – a KENWOOD TS 570S. With it we used a brand new moxon antenna specially designed and permanently installed in 2010 by Tom Brown N4TAB. SRD was the first real workout of this antenna, and it performed like a champ! We also used Dave Roy's Yaesu FT 897 radio and LDG AT-897



SRD Team at NWS. 1st Row: Raleigh NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Orrock KI4KKX, CCS AEC Scott Lewis KJ4BPV, CCS EC Virginia Enzor NC4VA. 2nd Row: Kristina Benson, Kevin Smith K4BGM. 3rd Row: ARES NC SEC Tom Brown N4TAB, Cassie Mentha KJ4GKP, CCS AEC Dave Roy W4DNA, Jim McRight KB4BZ, AEC Bob Woodson WX4MMM, and Chris Benson KJ4LKE. Photo by Mike Money Penny.

(Continued on next page)

tuner with a Windom 80 antenna and Virginia Enzor's Alinco DX-70 with an inverted V antenna on 20 meters.

For logging, we relied upon both paper and N3FJP logging software. Folks found the logging software quick to learn and easy to use.



SRD participants Cassie Mentha KJ4GKP and Kevin Smith K4BGM take a break from the radios to snap photos of the first snowfall of the season in central NC. Photo by Virginia Enzor NC4VA

On Friday night NWS forecasters predicted the possibility of light snow on Saturday with some uncertainty as to when it might start. Sure enough, it began snowing in the afternoon and continued lightly snowing when we took down the antennas. Several of us immediately trotted outside to take some photos. Back inside, we delighted in changing our weather report from cloudy to light snow during the SRD exchange. The snow increased our contacts locally as excited folks wanted to share their weather reports. In fact, 69 of our SRD contacts were from local spotters. Snowfall accumulations ranged from a trace to up to 3" across central NC.

Here's a breakdown of our contacts:

HF (20, 40, 80 meters)	37 contacts
VHF	60 contacts
UHF	9 contacts
IRLP	58 contacts
Total	164 contacts

We made contacts with:

- 33 NWS offices (which earned us the Whole Gale Certificate)
- 37 out of 50 states
- Farthest contacts – Puerto Rico where it was a sunny 86° and Estonia where it was a bitter -5.9°C (21.4°F) What a contrast!

We were treated to lunch by the NWS – they set up a grill and cooked plenty of hotdogs and hamburgers; potato chips, cheese puffs, drinks, homemade chocolate cookies and Christmas cupcakes completed the menu. The Warning Coordination Meteorologist proved his talent at the grill!

Plans for next year include different antenna placement and expanded hours of operation on Friday night. We want to look at ways to decrease the amount of time on putting up antennas and increase the amount of time on the air.

The opportunity to get on the air, the companionship of friends, good food, and the first snow of the season– it doesn't get any better than that for SRD!

And last of all, here is NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Orrock's final comment, "Thanks to everyone who participated. It was really a great day and everyone worked so hard. I cannot tell you how incredible it is to have such great volunteers such as yourselves who all work so hard. Thanks again and here is looking forward to next year!"



Virginia Enzor NC4VA (middle) oversees radio operation by Cassie Mentha KJ4GKP (foreground) and logger Kristina Benson. Photo by Kevin M. Smith.



Bob Woodson WX4MMM (left) operates IRLP while Chris Benson KJ4LKE (right) makes contacts on local repeaters. Photo by Kevin M. Smith.



Dave Roy W4DNA operates HF at the Raleigh NWS. Photo by Kevin M. Smith.

December 7, 2010 RARS Meeting Minutes

Minutes by Dick Orander KD4ISC on behalf of Charlie Swindell WB4DCM, RARS Secretary

1.) Call to order: The RARS general membership meeting was called to order by President Karl W4CHX at 7:32PM. There were 63 members and guests present.

2.) Approval of Minutes: President Karl W4CHX advised that the minutes from the November meeting were posted in the Exciter with the incorrect meeting date. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes with the correction of November 2, 2010 being made to the meeting date. Motion was made, seconded, and approved.

3.) Vice President's report (Justin AJ4MJ): No report.

4.) Treasurer's report (Greg KE4PAX): Greg KE4PAX provided a Treasurer's report. There are now 257 members in RARS. He also reported on a recent donation from Mrs. Lena Reinhardt.

5.) Announcements (Karl W4CHX):

1.) RARS Dinner: second Tuesday, December 14, 2010, 6:30PM, Golden Corral, 2909 Millbrook Rd (at the corner of Capital Blvd and Millbrook Rd), monitor the 146.64 repeater on Tuesday (14th) for any update information.

2.) RARS Board meeting: The December Board meeting has been cancelled.

3.) After meeting gathering: Depending on the time of the program completion: Applebee's, Six Forks Rd and Wake Forest Rd (by the Costco).

4.) Guests: Kim Floyd, Joanne Mars, Bill Agnor K4HVV, Kay McEwen and Celeste Fisher.

5.) Jack N6UYB is working to organize an Extra Class study group. Anyone interested in participating should advise Jack via the RARS or Yahoo mailing lists.

6.) Chuck Littlewood K4HF was given the floor to officiate the installation of the elected Officers, Board members and Chairpersons. These members were asked to stand at the front of the room where they took their oath of office.

6.) Reports from RARS Board Members and Others:

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1.) RARS Repeater Trustee (Jeff Wittich AC4ZO): Reported that the club had applied for the vanity call N4RAL. The current status of the application is pending.

2.) Alan Pitegoff AB4OZ announced a 10 meter net will be held this Saturday after the Tech Net. The planned frequency is 28.364+/- MHz. This will be a onetime net for now.

7.) Other Business

1.) The Applebee's gift certificate door prizes were won by: Scott Wilkinson KJ4TUC, Dennis Mason AJ4HK, and Dennis Keith NC4DK.

2.) Cliff Broughton W4FT reminded members of the ARRL 10 meter contest being held this weekend.

3.) Chuck K4HF announced there were QST and CQ magazines as well as a few hats on the Trader's table that need a new home. He also reported that several hams from North Carolina would be participating in the 10 meter contest from St. Lucia. K4MK and N4LA will be operating as J6BP.

8.) Program: Justin AJ4MJ introduced Gary Pearce KN4AQ as the opening act for tonight's program. Gary recited his "Ham's Night Before Christmas" much to the delight of the crowd. Justin then introduced The Encore Singers who provided an enjoyable evening of holiday music.

9.) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 PM.

Local Amateur Radio Nets

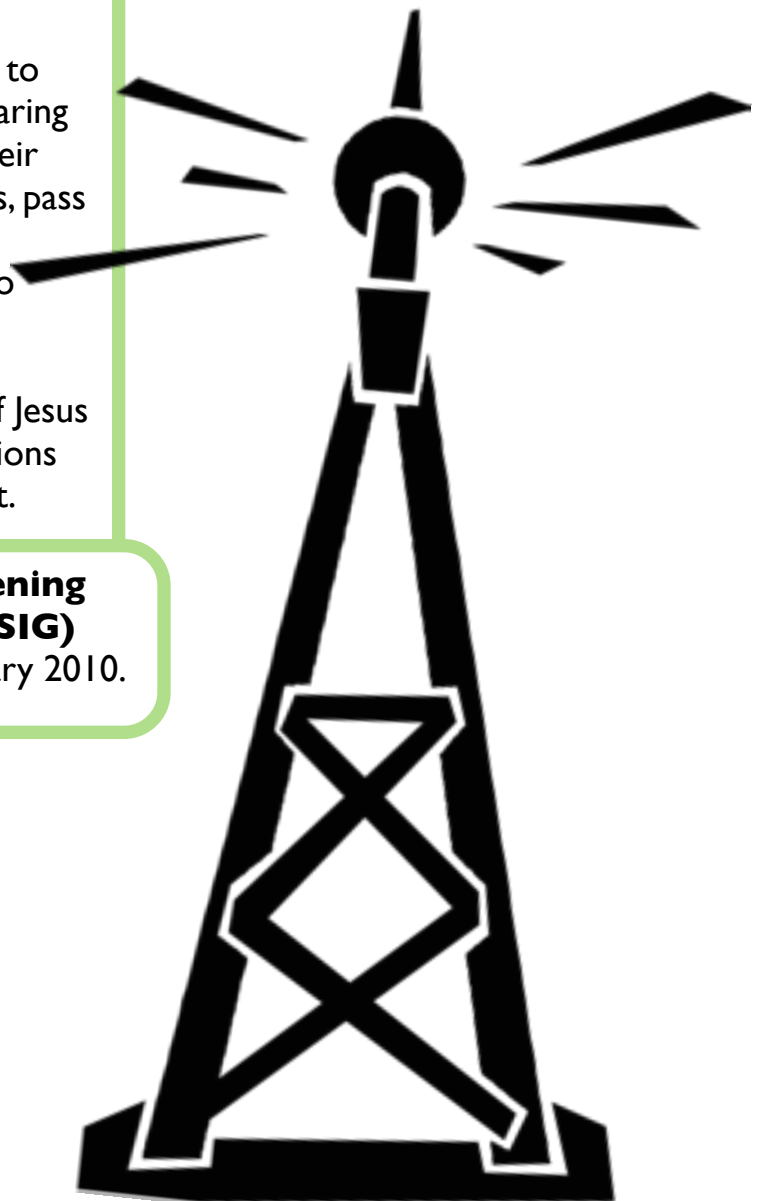
The **RARS Technical & Trader's Net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.640 at 8:30 PM.

Apex Emergency Response Communications Net

This net meets weekly each Sunday evening @ 9 PM on the 146.640 repeater. The purpose of the net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet. The Apex ERC Net provides amateur radio emergency communications for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. All stations are invited to participate in this net.

FYI: The **Tarheel Shortwave Listening (SWL) Special Interest Group (SIG) Net** has been discontinued as of January 2010.

The **VOIP Hurricane Net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.



Local Amateur Radio Nets

Join us every evening at 8 PM on the 146.640 repeater for the **RARS Two-Meter Net**. You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcome to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday @ 9:15 PM on the 146.880 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.

The **PCTN (Piedmont Costal Traffic Net)** meets every night at 9 PM on the 146.880. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 (PL tone 82.5).

The **Wake County ARES Net** meets Thursdays around 2115 on the 146.880 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of emergency communications for our served agencies, such as the American Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. For more information, check out www.wakeares.org.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 Net** every Monday night at 7:30 PM. This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Coastal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit www.carolina440.net.

RARS Classifieds

Looking to add a new radio to your shack? Have an antenna for sale? Browse the RARS classifieds for new and used radio equipment at <http://rars.org/classifieds.php>.

RARS members are welcome to post notices about equipment they are selling. Posts last for 30 days and are editable at any time.

Using our classifieds is a great way for buyers to search for available items and for sellers to reach a local, targeted audience.

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